



# UNFOLDING CITY COMPLEXITY

Seminar

Lehre Master  
Sommersemester 2022

Walfach Seminar  
Nummer: 20.00052  
ECTS Punkte 2

Beteiligte Personen:  
Dr. Stefano Cozzolino

Termine  
Einführung:  
Mi, 7. April 2022

Betreuungen:  
Donnerstags um 2 Uhr

The complexity of a city manifests itself in space, takes part in the daily life of citizens and shapes the unique character and spontaneous functioning of local areas. Urban complexity is observable in the composition of artefacts, the configuration of social patterns and the type/distribution of activities. In particular, it expresses itself in the way morphological, social and functional systems interact and influence each other.

Why are certain areas more attractive than others? Why do people prefer to walk along certain streets? Why is that park so successful? Why do certain economic activities cluster together? How a primary urban function influences its surrounding area? These, and many other questions, will accompany us throughout the semester.

The ability to grasp urban complexity is crucial to carrying out projects that can work with the spontaneous forces of cities. In this course, students will explore and apply methods to analyse urban complexity at the local scale. The goal is twofold: (I) to discuss the main conditions/factors that influence the spontaneous functioning of urban contexts; (II) to develop methods to visualise urban complexity and disseminate its understanding to a vast public. The seminar will be characterised by frontal lessons (50%) and students' inputs (50%). Candidates, divided into small groups, will investigate and explore the spontaneous order of a specific urban area. The discussion on urban complexity and the development of analytical methods will be triggered by, but not limited to, the collective reading of Jane Jacobs's seminal book „The Death and Life of Great American Cities“.